

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01     PARIS 30073 01 OF 02 122012Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-13 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 DPW-01

/095 W

----- 035169

R 121931Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5995

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 30073

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR FR VN VS TH

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEWS OF VIETNAM

REF: HONG KONG 11894

1. SUMMARY: IN A PERIODIC TOUR D'HORIZON THE QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA DOPFFER SPOKE OF THE INDICATIONS THE VIETNAMESE PARTY CONGRESS WILL TAKE PLACE IN LATE NOVEMBER, THE FRENCH DISSATISFACTION WITH FRANCO/VIETNAMESE RELATIONS, THE SRV'S VIEW OF ASEAN, THE MAINTENANCE OF THE FRENCH CONSULATE GENERAL IN SAIGON, FRENCH FLIGHTS AND THE EVACUATION OF FRENCH CITIZENS, THE STATUS OF FRENCH COMMERCIAL VENTURES, AND HANOI'S PROBLEMS IN THE SOUTH. END SUMMARY.

2. VIETNAMESE PARTY CONGRESS. THE VIETNAMESE HAD EARLIER HINTED THAT THE PARTY CONGRESS WOULD BE HELD IN NOVEMBER WHEN THEY ASKED THE FRENCH TO SCHEDULE DELEGATIONS TO HANOI FOR OCTOBER OR DECEMBER, BUT NOT NOVEMBER. VIETNAMESE OFFICIALS HAVE NOW REMARKED THAT THE CONGRESS WOULD TAKE PLACE THE END OF NOVEMBER.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02     PARIS 30073 01 OF 02 122012Z

3. GENERAL FRANCO/VIETNAMESE RELATIONS. THE QUAI OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE GOF WAS DISSATISFIED WITH VIETNAMESE RESPONSIVENESS TO MANY LONG STANDING GOF REQUESTS, AND THIS DISSATISFACTION WAS BROUGHT CLEARLY AND FIRMLY TO THE ATTENTION OF THE SRV AT A "SUITABLE LEVEL." (COMMENT: WE GATHER THAT THE SUITABLE LEVEL WOULD BE A SENIOR QUAI OFFICIAL SUCH AS LABOULAYE TO THE SRV AMBASSADOR, VO VAN SUNG.) THE FRENCH NOTED TO THE SRV THAT THEY HAVE AID PROGRAMS AND OTHER PROJECTS WHICH THEY ARE PROCEEDING RAPIDLY TO IMPLEMENT. IN ADDITION, THEY ARE EXPANDING COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM TO THE BENEFIT PARTICULARLY OF THE LATTER. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THE SRV SHOULD BE MORE FORTHCOMING ON FRENCH REQUESTS.

4. DOPFFER SAID THAT THE QUAI HAS ENGAGED IN FURTHER REFLECTION ON THE PHAN HIEN TOUR OF SEA AND ON THE SRV PERFORMANCE AT COLOMBO. THEY HAVE NOW CONCLUDED THAT THE SRV REALLY DOES NOT LIKE THE ASEAN ORGANIZATION AND WILL WORK TO HAVE IT DISSOLVED. THE CONCILIATORY NATURE OF THE PHAN HIEN CONTACT INDICATED TO THE FRENCH THAT HANOI WILL ATTEMPT TO KILL ASEAN BY "SOFT MEANS". THE GOF CONCLUDED THAT UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ONE OF ITS PRINCIPAL CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD BE FACILITATING BETTER VIETNAMESE RELATIONS WITH THE NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES OF SEA. HENCE, THIS WAS ONE OF THE THEMES IN GUIRINGAUD'S UN ADDRESS.

5. MAINTENANCE OF THE FRENCH CONSULATE GENERAL IN SAIGON. PERSONNEL OF THE FRENCH CONSULATE GENERAL IN SAIGON ARE RATHER PESSIMISTIC ABOUT BEING ABLE TO MAINTAIN THEIR PRESENCE VERY MUCH LONGER. THE GOF IS SOMEWHAT MORE OPTIMISTIC; A "SENIOR SRV OFFICIAL" HAS GIVEN THEM ASSURANCES THAT THEY WILL BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THE CONSULATE GENERAL FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THE QUAI IS AWARE THAT SUCH ASSURANCES MAY NOT BE ENTIRELY RELIABLE AND NOTE THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO FORMAL REGULARIZATION OF THE CONSULATE GENERAL'S STATUS NOW THAT VIETNAM HAS BEEN UNIFIED. IN ANY CASE, FRANCE HAS ALREADY BEEN REDUCING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03     PARIS 30073 01 OF 02 122012Z

THE NUMBER OF PERSONS FRENCH AND LOCAL IN THE CONSULATE GENERAL.

6. FRENCH FLIGHTS AND EVACUATION OF FRENCH CITIZENS. THE FRENCH HAVE HAD TROUBLES IN REESTABLISHING

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 30073 02 OF 02 122012Z

64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-13 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 DPW-01

/095 W

----- 035181

R 121931Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5996

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 30073

FLIGHTS TO SAIGON BECAUSE OF THE DESTRUCTION OF THE AIRCRAFT IN SAIGON -- AND ANOTHER IN CORSICA. THEY HAVE PROPOSED TO THE SRV THAT A CERTAIN NUMBER OF FLIGHTS BE SCHEDULED, AND THEY BELIEVE THAT THE SRV WILL SOON AGREE TO ONE LAST SERIES. THEY EXPECT THIS SERIES TO PERMIT THE EVACUATION OF SOME ONE THOUSAND FRENCH CITIZENS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS. THE SRV IS NOW ACTIVELY PRESSURING THESE CITIZENS TO GO, AND THE GOF THINKS THAT THEY WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS LAST CHANCE. AS FOR REGULAR AIR CONNECTIONS, THE FRENCH ARE CONTINUING TO PRESS FOR FURTHER TALKS ABOUT IANDING RIGHTS IN HANOI AND/OR SAIGON. THEY GATHER THAT IT WILL BE ANOTHER 5 OR 6 MONTHS BEFORE THE HANOI FIELD WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE TYPES OF AIRCRAFT WHICH FRANCE WOULD WISH TO USE, WHICH IS PERHAPS IN PART RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DELAY IN THE TALKS. ALSO, THEY HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE PARTY CONGRESS ARE DELAYING THESE AS WELL AS OTHER NEGOTIATIONS. (THIS CONVERSATION PRECEDED THE RECEIPT OF REFTEL.)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02     PARIS 30073 02 OF 02 122012Z

7. STATUS OF FRENCH COMMERCIAL VENTURES. THE VIETNAMESE HAVE CONTINUED TO PUT OFF FRENCH BUSINESSMEN WHO HAVE WISHED TO RESUME DIRECTION OF FORMER FRENCH ENTERPRISES IN THE SOUTH. SRV OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO SAY THAT THE "INVESTMENT CODE" WILL NOT BE ADOPTED UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR. THE QUAI OFFICIAL REMARKED THAT THE SRV HAD MORE TO LOSE BY INACTIVITY THAN THE GOF.

8. THE SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE FRENCH BELIEVE THE SRV CONSIDERS THE SITUATION IN SVN NOT TO BE GOOD. THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND THE POLITICAL DIS-SATISFACTIONS OF THE SOUTHERNERS HAVE CREATED A CLIMATE WITHIN WHICH THE NORTH IS REQUIRED TO USE FORCE, WHICH FURTHER HEIGHTENS THE DISCONTENT. THE FRENCH THEREFORE BELIEVE THAT HANOI'S PRIMARY GOALS ARE COMPLETE CONTROL OVER AND PACIFICATION OF THE SOUTH AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY IN ALL OF VIETNAM. THIS DOUBLE PROGRAM APPEARS TO BE EXHAUSTING ALL OF HANOI'S ENERGIES, AND THE FRENCH DO NOT EXPECT VIETNAMESE ADVENTURISM IN THAILAND IN SUPPORT OF THE THAI INSURGENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. DOPFFER NOTED THAT THE BANGKOK GOVERNMENT, BY ITS SUPPORT OF LAO AND CAMBODIAN DISSIDENTS (INCLUDING FACILITATING THEIR OPERATIONS ACROSS THE BORDER) HAS GIVEN STRONG JUSTIFICATIONS TO HANOI, VIENTIANE AND PHNOM PENH TO SUPPORT THAI COMMUNIST INSURGENTS. HE SOMEWHAT RELUCTANTLY AGREED THAT THE VIETNAMESE HAD BEEN THE FIRST TO PLAY THAT GAME AGAINST THAILAND, BUT DOPFFER IMPLIED THAT THE FRENCH CONSIDER THAT WHAT WAS SAUCE FOR THE THAI GOOSE WAS NOT SAUCE FOR THE VIETNAMESE GANDER, A SUGGESTION OF THE OLD FRENCH DOUBLE STANDARD FAVORING HANOI.  
RUSH

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 OCT 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PARIS30073  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760383-0852  
**From:** PARIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19761061/aaaacaqd.tel  
**Line Count:** 209  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 HONG KONG 11894  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** BoyleJA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <27 APR 2004 by RowellE0>; APPROVED <12 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FRENCH VIEWS OF VIETNAM  
**TAGS:** PFOR, FR, VN, VS, TH  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006